



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
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DRAFT Meeting Minutes Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee

Thursday, December 21, 2023

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

Committee Members and Other Council Members in Attendance

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair

Absent

The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Member

Staff and Others in Attendance

Gabriel Boisvert, Assistant City Attorney
LaTanja Davenport, Council Budget Analyst
Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Nahdiah Muhammad, Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Nahdiah Muhammad provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with citizen speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of the Thursday, November 16, 2023 committee meeting, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2023.377](#) November 16, 2023 - Finance & Economic Development Standing Committee Minutes

Attachments: [20231116 Finance Minutes - DRAFT](#)

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinances were considered:

1. [ORD. 2023-359](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the amount of \$265,275.00 from the Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund, to amend the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Special Fund Budget by creating a new special fund for the Department of Economic Development called the Alacer Corp. Special Fund, and to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Economic Development's Alacer Corp. Special Fund by \$265,275.00, for the purpose of providing Alacer Corp. with incentives to improve, equip, and operate its facility at 1211 Sherwood Avenue in the city of Richmond. (3rd District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-359](#)

2. [ORD. 2023-365](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Performance Agreement between the City of Richmond, Alacer Corp., and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond, for the purpose of providing the balance of the local match funds to Alacer Corp. through a grant from the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond in accordance with a Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund Performance Agreement as an incentive to improve, equip, and operate a research and development facility at 1211 Sherwood Avenue in the city of Richmond. (3rd District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-365](#)

Leonard Sledge, Director of Economic Development, provided the committee with an introduction and additional background information regarding ORD. 2023-359 and ORD. 2023-365.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson stated appreciation to city administration for the economic growth that the proposed legislation will bring to the city.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2023-359 and ORD. 2023-365 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Robertson, Newbille. Noes None.

The following ordinance was considered:

3. [ORD. 2023-360](#) To amend Ord. No. 2023-071, adopted May 8, 2023, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 General Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, by (i) transferring \$100,000.00 from the Non-Departmental agency "Reserve for Children's Fund" line item, (ii) creating a new line item entitled "Greater Richmond SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now), Inc. (for FY24 Circle Preschool Program Stabilization)" in the Non-Departmental agency, and (iii) appropriating the total amount of \$100,000.00 of the transferred funds to such new line item in the Non-Departmental agency, all for the purpose of stabilizing and continuing operations of a sliding-scale therapeutic preschool program for children who have experienced adversities and direct trauma.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney and Ms. Lynch

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-360](#)

Eva Colen, Manager of the Office of Children and Families, provided the committee with an introduction and additional background information regarding ORD. 2023-360.

Public hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson inquired about the reduction in state funding addressed in the proposed legislation.

Eva Colen stated that there was a reduction under the Victims of Crime Act, due to a shift in regulations.

Jeanine Harper, Executive Director, Greater Richmond Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN), stated that Circle Pre-school has funding from a variety of sources such as the Victims of Crime Act, but the state funding provided has been decreased.

Vice Chair Robertson inquired about the total amount of the funding reduction.

Jeanine Harper stated that the total reduction amounts to \$182,000.

Chair Cynthia Newbille stated that there is \$158 million in funding for mental health services in the Governor's proposed budget and that can hopefully fund the projects discussed in ORD. 2023-360.

Eva Colen stated that she is in the process of learning more about the Governor's budget and how agencies like SCAN can access the funding.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2023-360 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Robertson, Newbille. Noes None.

The following ordinances were considered:

4. [ORD. 2023-361](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the amount of \$7,142.00 from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority, to amend the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 General Fund Budget by creating a new line item in the Non-Departmental agency to be called the "Hanover County OAA Project Recover Grant" line item, and to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 General Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to such new line item by \$7,142.00, all for the purpose of making a grant of matching funds to Hanover County to support the Project Recover initiative funded by the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney and Ms. Lynch

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-361](#)

5. [ORD. 2023-362](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the amount of \$2,500.00 from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority, to amend the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 General Fund Budget by creating a new line item in the Non-Departmental agency to be called the "Henrico County OAA Planning Grant" line item, and to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal

Year 2023-2024 General Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to such new line item by \$2,500.00, all for the purpose of making a grant of matching funds to Henrico County to support the development of a gap analysis of the needs of pregnant and parenting individuals with opioid use disorder.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney and Ms. Lynch

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-362](#)

6. [ORD.
2023-367](#)

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Counties of Hanover, Chesterfield, and Henrico for the purpose of funding the development of a gap analysis of the needs of pregnant and parenting individuals with opioid use.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-367](#)

7. [ORD.
2023-368](#)

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute an Operational Agreement for Cooperative Partnership for Opioid Abatement Authority Award between the City of Richmond and the Counties of Hanover and Chesterfield, for the purpose of making a grant of matching funds to Hanover County to support the Project Recover initiative funded by the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-368](#)

Dominic Barrett, Strategic Projects & Grants Advisor, Human Services, provided the committee with an introduction and additional background information regarding ORD. 2023-361, ORD. 2023-362, ORD. 2023-367, and ORD. 2023-368.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson inquired about the use of the total appropriation that was awarded to Richmond from the National Opioids Settlement Fund (NOSF).

Dominic Barrett stated that the grant funds for the projects listed in the proposed legislation, with the exception of \$2,500 and \$7,500, are funded from entities separate from the significant funds coming directly to Richmond from the NOSF. Mr. Barrett also stated that there will be additional funds coming from the NOSF to localities from the state through the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority. Mr. Barrett further stated that city administration will be bringing additional legislation to Council with specific uses for the city's NOSF allotment.

Vice Chair Robertson inquired about the allocation that will be coming to the city and how the funding will be used.

Mr. Barrett stated that the grant request being discussed occurred in the first application cycle as a strategic decision made by Richmond and other localities. Mr. Barrett also stated that the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority was just becoming established, and that city administration did not attempt to withdraw funds that were being held by the authority in an effort to be thoughtful regarding the use of the funds from NOSF.

Chair Cynthia Newbille stated that she wants discussion between Council and city administration regarding NOSF funding use before legislation is introduced.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2023-361, ORD. 2023-362, ORD. 2023-367, and ORD. 2023-368 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Robertson, Newbille. Noes None.

The following ordinance was considered:

8. [ORD. 2023-363](#) To amend Ord. No. 2023-071, adopted May 8, 2023, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 General Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, by (i) transferring \$250,000.00 from the Office of the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Human Services, (ii) transferring \$17,320.00 from the Non-Departmental agency "Reserve for Children's Fund" line item, (iii) creating a new line item entitled "Rings vs. Rent Scholarship Foundation (for School Year 2023-24 MLK MS Leadership Program)" in the Non-Departmental agency, and (iv) appropriating the total amount of \$267,320.00 of the transferred funds to such new line item in the Non-Departmental agency, all for the purpose of supporting leadership programming for students at Martin Luther King, Jr., Middle School.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-363](#)

Eva Colen, Manager of the Office of Children and Families, provided the committee with an introduction and additional background information regarding ORD. 2023-363.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

There were discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2023-363 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Robertson, Newbille. Noes None.

The following ordinance was considered:

9. [ORD. 2023-364](#) To amend Ord. No. 2023-072, adopted May 8, 2023, which appropriated and provided funds for financing the school budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2023, and ending Jun. 30, 2024, by increasing estimated revenues from certain state programs.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-364](#)

Kiara Jordan, Senior Manager for Budget and Strategic Planning, provided an introduction and additional background information regarding ORD. 2023-364.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson inquired if the one-time funding used for resources will need continued funding from the city in future budgets.

Lynn Bragga, Executive Director for Budget and Finance, Richmond Public Schools (RPS), stated that \$3.1 million will be recurring funding from the state, but \$9.4 million for high dosage tutoring is a one time allocation.

Vice Chair Robertson inquired if the funding will be coming from one time funding sources and if the city should consider continued funding during the upcoming budget process.

Lynn Bragga stated that \$12 million has been appropriated and \$3.1 million of state funding is to save positions that are currently funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and she noted the funds will be reoccurring. Ms. Bragga also stated that \$9 million in funding will not be reoccurring and that RPS will have 2 years to spend that funding.

Chair Cynthia Newbille stated that the city or philanthropic partners can provide sustainability of the efforts for high dosage tutoring.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2023-364 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Robertson, Newbille. Noes None.

The following ordinance was considered:

10. [ORD. 2023-366](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a First Amendment to Stone Brewery Cooperation Agreement, as Amended, Dated March 2, 2015, Between the City of Richmond, Virginia and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond, Virginia, for the purpose of facilitating the use of excess revenues for economic development activities and projects in the city of Richmond.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-366](#)

Leonard Sledge, Director of Economic Development, provided the committee with an introduction and additional background information regarding ORD. 2023-366.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson inquired about receiving a revenue report regarding the proposed legislation.

Leonard Sledge stated that as of October 2023 in the Economic Development Authority (EDA) account for Stone Brewery, there is approximately \$2.6 million.

Vice Chair Robertson inquired about receiving a full revenue report in the future.

Mr. Sledge stated that information can be provided on an ongoing basis.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2023-366 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved. Ayes 2, Robertson, Newbille. Noes None.

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Staff Report

LaTanja Davenport, Council Budget Analyst, provided the committee with a review of the staff report.

[CD.2023.382](#) December 21, 2023 - Finance & Economic Development Staff Report

Attachments: [20231221 Finance & Economic Development Staff Report](#)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.